

# BLUE-GRAY SCENIC BYWAY

The Blue-Gray Scenic Byway reflects the significant impact the Civil War, which was fought between 1861–65, had on Eastern North Carolina.

The byway's western terminus is located near Smithfield, the Johnston County seat.

**From I-95, take Exit 90 onto U.S. 701 East. Immediately after turning**

**onto U.S. 701, turn left onto Devil's Racetrack Road (S.R. 1009),** which parallels the Neuse River and Hannah's Creek. Local legend says people traveling this road could once hear the footsteps of a horse carrying the devil as he rode through the area; however, no one has ever seen the horse or its rider.

**Follow the course of the Neuse River to the left and Hannah's Creek to the right for the next 8.5 miles before finally crossing Hannah's Creek.** The road continues over Civil War battle sites, noted on the many historic markers along both sides of the road. About one mile after crossing Hannah's Creek, the byway crosses Mill Creek where Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's troops were prevented from attacking Union troops under the command of Gen. William T. Sherman

from the rear because of a flood. The Confederates were able to escape after their defeat.

In the community of Bentonville,

one-half mile farther, Confederate forces kept naval stores of tar, pitch and turpentine, which they burned after their retreat from Bentonville.



N.C. Travel & Tourism

Reenactment at the Battle of Bentonville

**Bentonville, continue 1.5 miles and veer left at the fork in the road.**

**Proceed an additional mile to Harper House Road (S.R. 1008). Turn right and follow the road for three miles to reach the Bentonville Battlefield State Historic Site.** This 1865 Civil War battle slowed Sherman's march through the state and was the bloodiest battle ever fought on North Carolina soil with nearly 5,000 total casualties. Reenactments of this historic battle are held each March. Reminders of this battle may be found on both sides of the road. The Harper House was used as a Union field hospital and is included in the site's tour.

After visiting the battlefield, **backtrack three miles to Harper House Road and turn onto the third road to the right, St. John's Church Road (S.R.**